

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A composite multilayer material, in particular for plain bearings or bushings, having a backing layer, a bearing metal layer of a copper alloy or an aluminum alloy, a nickel intermediate layer and an overlay, **wherein** the overlay consists of~~comprises~~ about 0 - 20 wt.% copper and~~[[/or]]~~ silver, the rest being bismuth, and the layer thickness of the nickel layer amounts to more than 4 μm .

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The composite multilayer material as claimed in claim 1, **wherein** the overlay consists of~~comprises~~ at least 0.5 wt.% copper and~~[[/or]]~~ silver.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The composite multilayer material as claimed in claim 1, **wherein** the overlay consists of~~comprises~~ about 2 - 8 wt.% copper and~~[[/or]]~~ silver, the rest being bismuth.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The composite multilayer material as claimed in claim 1, **wherein** the layer thickness of the overlay is about 5 - 25 μm .

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The composite multilayer material as claimed in claim 1, **wherein** the layer thickness of the overlay is about 6 - 14 μm .

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The composite multilayer material as claimed in claim 1, **wherein** the layer thickness of the nickel layer is about 4 - 6 μm .

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The composite multilayer material as claimed in claim 1, **wherein** the bearing metal layer comprises copper-aluminum, copper-tin, copper-tin-lead, copper-zinc, copper-zinc-silicon, copper-zinc-aluminum, aluminum-zinc or copper-aluminum-iron alloy.

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8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The composite multilayer material as claimed in claim 1, which has undergone an aging process and comprises an interdiffusion layer of substantially bismuth and nickel between the nickel intermediate layer and the overlay.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for the production of a[[the]] composite multilayer material[[s]] having a backing layer, a bearing metal layer of a copper alloy or an aluminum alloy, a nickel intermediate layer and an overlay consisting of about 0 - 20 wt.% copper and silver, the rest being bismuth, and the layer thickness of the nickel layer amounts to more than 4 μ m as claimed in claim 1 by electrodeposition, in which the overlay is deposited from an aqueous-based electrolyte system comprising:

20-100 g/l bismuth methanesulfonate,
0.1- 30 g/l ~~and/or~~ copper methanesulfonate,
0.1 - 2 g/l silver methanesulfonate,
80 - 250 g/l methanesulfonic acid,
20 - 100 g/l nonionic wetting agent,
5 - 40 g/l grain refining agent,
1 - 4 g/l resorcinol, and
~~if silver methanesulfonate is added, then also~~

30 - 150 g/l thiourea.

10. (ORIGINAL) The method as claimed in claim 9, **wherein** the grain refining agent is based on an acrylic acid derivative and alkylaryl polyglycol ether.

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as claimed in claim 9, **wherein** the nonionic wetting agent is based on aryl polyglycol ether and/or alkylaryl polyglycol ether.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of production of plain bearings or bushings having the following steps:

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applying a copper alloy or an aluminum alloy onto a backing layer as bearing metal layer;

~~subdividing and shaping the composite multilayer material;~~

applying a nickel intermediate layer having a thickness greater than 4 μm onto the bearing metal layer; and

electrodepositing an overlay consisting of about 0 - 20 wt.% copper and silver, the rest being bismuth onto the nickel intermediate layer.

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 12 further including heat treating the plain bearings or bushings for two or more hours.

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 13 further including maintaining the temperature during heat treatment between 150 - 170°C.

Claims 15 and 16 (CANCELLED)

17. (NEW) A crankshaft main bearing consisting of a composite multilayer material having a backing layer, a bearing metal layer of a copper alloy or an aluminum alloy, a nickel intermediate layer and an overlay, wherein the overlay comprises about 0 - 20 wt.% copper and/or silver, the rest being bismuth, and the layer thickness of the nickel layer amounts to more than 4 μm .

18. (NEW) A connecting rod bearing consisting of a composite multilayer material having a backing layer, a bearing metal layer of a copper alloy or an aluminum alloy, a nickel intermediate layer and an overlay, wherein the overlay comprises about 0 - 20 wt.% copper and/or silver, the rest being bismuth, and the layer thickness of the nickel layer amounts to more than 4 μm .